insert --claim 1--;

Claim 11, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 10", and insert --claim 1--;

Claim 12, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 11", and insert --claim 1--;
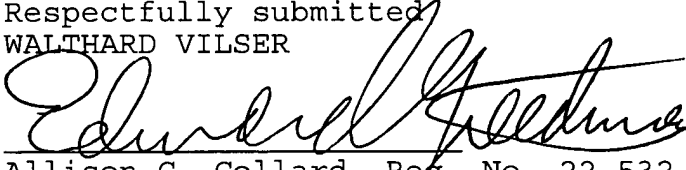
Claim 13, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 12", and insert --claim 1--;

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice and the multiple dependency of certain of the dependent claims has been removed so as to avoid the surcharge associated therewith. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited.
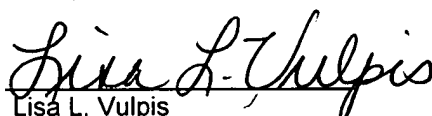
Respectfully submitted,
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Date of Deposit: September 8, 2000
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Lisa L. Vulpis

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